

REMARKS

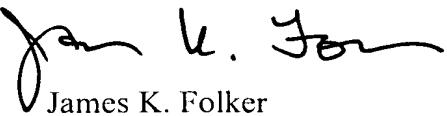
Claims 6-12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Downs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226, 618). Applicants have cancelled Claims 6-12, 14, 16, 18 and 20, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants have also added new Claims 21-26. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 21-26 are allowable over the art of record. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner asserted that the previous claims were not patentable over the Downs et al. reference because the claims included language related to a hardware key that "can" be attached to and detached from a processing device, and that such language regarding what the invention may or may not do does not patentably distinguish it from the prior art. In response, new independent Claims 21-26 each specifically recite either a hardware key connection means or a hardware key connection unit that reads "attach/detach key information from a hardware key when the hardware key is attached . . . the hardware key storing the attach/detach key information." Accordingly, the hardware key and its operation and features are now more positively defined in the claims. Thus, for the reasons set forth in Response B, filed October 24, 2007, when considered in light of new Claims 21-26 with the more clearly defined hardware key, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new Claims 21-26.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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